

RESEARCH IN MEDICINE AND OTHER ADDRESSES. Sir Thomas Lewis, C.B.E., F.R.S., F.R.S.E., M.D., D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.C.P. 1930. London : H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd. Pp. 75.

THIS is a collection of five addresses previously delivered by Sir Thomas Lewis, with a preface.

The convincing logic of his views and the precision with which they are expressed make one feel that the book should be in the hands of every teaching physician and every professor of physiology. It speaks volumes for the sane discriminating insight of the author that he can combine an address written as far back as 1920 with his present-day utterances. What he wrote in 1920 is as inspiring to-day as it was when he wrote it. The views put forward are as urgently in need of recognition to-day as they were when he delivered the address eighteen years ago. To quote one sentence alone: "The daily routine of the practitioner and the work of the special investigator . . . stand apart. You cannot deal with masses of patients by using refined methods; repeatedly it has been tried, it always breaks down. The chief weapons of the general practitioner are to-day, and will remain, his own unaided senses; these are supplemented by a few simple devices."

In his second lecture he deplures, with much justification the "plethora of pseudo-scientific publications under the weight of which our library tables groan," and comments further that "records of imperfect and actually unsound work find an almost open path to the printing press; reports of purely repetitive work have reached an extraordinary and most undesirable magnitude."

In the last of the five addresses of which this little book consists the author outlines in brief his concept of the type of mind pre-eminently suited for the teaching of medicine in a university, and broadly outlines the way in which he considers that medicine should be taught. His ideas might well be put before university bodies who are considering the appointment of such a professor.

TEXTBOOK OF MEDICINE. Edited by J. J. Conybeare, D.M.Oxon., F.R.C.P. Fourth Edition. 1939. Edinburgh : E. & S. Livingstone. Pp. 1,112.

ONE of the most popular books amongst medical students is, beyond doubt, Conybeare's *Textbook of Medicine*, which in the short period of ten years since it was first published, has reached its fourth edition; it is recognised as the student's ideal textbook, not discussing anything in too bewildering detail, but keeping to essentials and clear teaching. The general character and scope of this edition rightly remains unchanged, with the addition of a short section on psychological medicine by Dr. Desmond Curran and Dr. Eric Guttmann. New articles have been included in the cardio-vascular section on the heart in myxoedema, in deficiency diseases and on peripheral circulatory failure. There are also additions in the neurological section on neuromyelitis, and hypertensive encephalopathy; and in the section of diabetes the use of protomine zinc insulin is described. The book is thus brought up to date in every particular.

On the whole, a careful balance is preserved on the relative importance of the various conditions described, but in the venereal diseases section it seems strange that no mention is made of such common conditions as "soft sores" and balanitis, while two full pages are given over to climatic bubo, a tropical disease rarely seen in this country.

MAJOR ENDOCRINE DISORDERS. By S. Levy Simpson, M.D. 1938. London : John Bale Medical Publications Ltd. Pp. 184. Plates 21. Price 10s. 6d.

The task of writing a book on Endocrinology is one which few would do successfully, but Dr. Levy Simpson has overcome the obstacles and produced a book which, to our mind, fills a long-felt want in medical literature.

In this most interesting section of medicine there has been such a lot of valuable experimental work done, and there is still much to be done, that it behoves the general practitioner to keep himself up to date. The book is written especially for the general medical practitioner and in a style which is concise and yet very readable. It contains all the most recent advances in Endocrinology, but presented in such a manner that the proved facts are separated from all